

July 27, 2012

Weekly Views

Marion County Community Corrections staff toured Putnamville Correctional Facility programs and observed facility operations. Visitors commented on the professionalism of staff and stated that they were impressed with the variety of programs available to the offender population.

Join Indiana's "first motorcyclist" Governor Mitch Daniels on Friday, August 10 to celebrate the "last round-up" of "Ride with the Governor" to benefit the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund. This year PEN Products is working with ABATE of Indiana on the commemorative shirt for this ride. Visit www.abateonline.org to get your commemorative t-shirt for the Last Roundup with Governor Daniels. A portion of the proceeds go to the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) Indiana Veterans Education and Transitional (INVET) Unit donated a dollhouse to the Pink Ribbon Foundation to benefit their fundraising efforts. Pink Ribbon Foundation Executive Director Dori Sparks-Unsworth was presented with the dollhouse, painted pink in support of cancer research. INVET Resident Rick Buffum worked on the dollhouse for several months and handmade all of the furniture included with the house. The dollhouse set was donated by IREF's Recreation Department, and paint and wallpaper were donated by Sherwin Williams out of Avon, Indiana. (photo below Resident Buffum, Dori Sparks Unsworth, and INVET Coordinator Jacinda Estle-Croneau)

The first Wabash Valley Workmate class, coordinated by ARAMARK, celebrated graduation by doing what they do best, cooking a lunch special! Nine offenders completed the extensive 78-week food services program, garnering valuable job skills. Their recipe for re-entry success includes U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship and ServSafe certifications. Students had to pass a stringent National Restaurant Association test during their three courses of study.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility (PCF) received a generous donation from the Screaming Eagles R/C Club to purchase vegetable plants for the facility's garden, which is maintained by PCF PLUS offenders and PCF Sergeant Bobby Paige. Under the advisement of Purdue Master Gardeners, the garden has produced enough vegetables to donate to Damar Corporation and Sheltering Wings in spite of the recent drought conditions. The facility hopes to provide vegetables to Gleaners Food Bank as well.

The "Girls of RDC" Plane Pull Team is teaming up with the IDOC E-Squad Team to host a free bike ride this weekend to raise money for Special Olympics Indiana. The Reception Diagnostic Center Activity Committee is also generously hosting a food sale to benefit both teams. E-Squad is teaming up with Orange Leave in Avon Wednesday, August 1, and the Girls of RDC are teaming up with Noodle Company in Plainfield Friday, August 3. The Girls of RDC Plane Pull Team have raised about \$500 towards their goal of \$1,200.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted a blood drive conducted by the Indiana Blood Center and 14 units were collected. Donors received an Indianapolis Indians t-shirt in appreciation for their participation.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility Superintendent Frances Osburn is proud to announce the promotion of Officer Adam Behmlander to Correctional Sergeant. Sergeant Behmlander has been employed by the Department since May 2011. Before joining the Department, Sergeant Behmlander received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Concordia University. Sergeant Behmlander's leadership and professionalism will be an added asset to the facility.

Gospel Praising in the Prison visited the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) for an all day event. It began with feeding the entire population ribs, chicken and all the sides. The IWP Ensemble Choir and Liturgical Dance performed. There was a special Christian rock band and a professional praise dance troop as special guests. The evening ended with a message from a local pastor.

Seven offenders from the Indiana State Prison assisted the City of Gary with a program titled "Gary Truancy Court". The offenders made a video and spoke to the children about their personal journeys and what lead them to prison. Topics addressed were bullying, skipping school, and being in a gang. Mayor of the City of Gary, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Director of Planted Seed Ministries, Ms. Reneica Williams, and Commander for the Gary City Police, Kerry Rice wanted to thank the offenders for their assistance with the program now called "Gary Rebuild". The Commander stated, "This helps the City of Gary get better, the children have to get an education".

The Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) hosted its 2nd annual "Week-End of Excitement" Mike Barber Prison Ministry Revival. The three-day event included several large and small group meetings and the Mike Barber volunteers visiting the housing units to involve those offenders who could not participate in the revival. Christian Rock bands, spiritual motivational speakers and Mike Barber himself entertained the offenders. WCC's custody and non-custody staff coordinated their efforts to escort over 700 offenders to the 200 foot revival tent.

